

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L PANAMA 8501

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E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PN, PQ, US
SUBJECT: HIGHLIGHTS OF 434TH PRC MEETING, DECEMBER 15, 1976

1. CONSULATIONS IN WASHINGTON: THE AMBASSADOR REPORTED
ON HIS RECENT CONSULTATIONS IN THE DEPARTMENT AND THE
VISIT OF FOREIGN MINISTER BOYD TO NEW YORK AND WASHINGTON.
HE INFORMED THE COMMITTEE OF THE MEETING BETWEEN THE
SECRETARY AND BOYD WHICH RESULTED IN THE AGREEMENT TO SEND
THE NEGOTIATORS TO PANAMA FOR ANOTHER ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS.

2. TREATY TALKS: THE AMBASSADOR OUTLINED THE ISSUES WHICH
THE US NEGOTIATING TEAM HOPES TO TAKE UP DURING CURRENT
NEGOTIATING ROUND, I.E., LANDS AND WATERS, CIVILIAN EMPLOYEE
RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES, ARRANGEMENTS FOR NON-MILITARY
ORGANIZATIONS, FUTURE CANAL OPERATING ENTITY, AND TREATY
DRAFTING PROCEDURES. WITH REGARD TO LANDS AND WATERS,
CINC COMMENTED HE HAD SPOKEN IN WASHINGTON WITH AMBASSADOR
BUNKER AND GENERAL DOLVIN TO INDICATE HE IS NOT IN AGREE-
MENT WITH CERTAIN ASPECTS OF GENERAL DOLVIN'S PROPOSAL.
CINC STATED HE HAD REQUESTED THE INDIVIDUAL MILITARY
SERVICES TO DEFINE THEIR FUTURE NEEDS BEFORE THE US LANDS
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AND WATERS PROPOSAL BECOMES FIRM. THE CINC STATED HE IS
CARRYING ON A DIALOGUE WITH GENERAL DOLVIN ON THIS MATTER.

3. SECURITY MEASURES IN ZONE: AMBASSADOR COMMENTED THAT
INCIDENTS INVOLVING DIPLOMATIC CORPS HAD BEEN VIRTUALLY
ELIMINATED WITH ISSUANCE OF MILITARY PASSES. THE CINC

AGREED TO ISSUE ADDITIONAL PASSES TO CERTAIN NON-OFFICER PERSONNEL ASSIGNED TO FRIENDLY EMBASSIES. IN REPLY TO QUESTION, CINC ESTIMATED INCREASED SECURITY MEASURES WOULD REMAIN IN FORCE AT LEAST THROUGH JANUARY AND STATED HE IS AWAITING JCS APPROVAL FOR ADDITIONAL MP COMPANY TO ARRIVE IN JANUARY. COMMITTEE AGREED ON ADVISABILITY OF MAINTAINING CURRENT VIGILANCE ALSO BECAUSE GOP MAY BE PROMULGATING CERTAIN AUSTERITY MEASURES WHICH MAY CONTRIBUTE TO AN UNSTABLE DOMESTIC SITUATION.

4. JURISDICTIONAL INCIDENTS: GOVERNOR REPORTED INCIDENTS OCCURRING WITHIN CANAL ZONE INVOLVING: (A) REPORTED ARREST OF U.S. CITIZEN BY NATIONAL GUARD AT OLD FRANCE FIELD; (B) HOSTILE MOB ACTION AGAINST CZ POLICE RESULTING IN SOME DAMAGE TO EQUIPMENT; (C) NEWSPAPER REFERENCES TO PANAMANIAN SOVEREIGNTY OVER OLD FRANCE FIELD.
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